

## **Medicare's Shared Savings Program for ACOs**

**ISSUE:** An Accountable Care Organization (ACO) is a group of providers that will be held responsible for the quality and cost of health care for a population of Medicare beneficiaries. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) outlines how a bonus-only Medicare ACO will be formed. In this meeting we will discuss ACO issues that will need to be resolved by regulation prior to the January 2012 implementation of the program.

**KEY POINTS:** As a follow up to our September meeting we will discuss informing beneficiaries, quality of care, random variation in performance, thresholds for bonus payments, and alternatives to the bonus-only ACO model.

**ACTION:** Commissioners can discuss the issues regarding the evolution of the Medicare ACO program.

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